Indians in Iraq to fight for Baghdad

902. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report appearing in the Hindu of January 16, 1991 to the effect that some two lakh Indains in Iraq were going to fight for Baghdad, against the Allied forces;

(b) whether those Indians have sought the permission of Government to fight for that country; and

(c) if so, what is Government's response and reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 524 such requests have been received from the All India Indo-Iraq Friendship and Cultural Association, Moradabad (U.P.) However, it is not Government of India's policy to permit its nationals to go abroad and fight for other countries.

Views of U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan on India's nuclear capability

903. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gotvernment's attention has been drawn to the statement of the US Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Robert Oakley, as quoted by Radio Pakistan on December 22, 1990, and reported in the Hindu of January 6, 1991 to the effect that 'if India had acquired nuclear capability then Pakistan also had the right to do so for its own defence';

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that Bush administration has been keen on resuming military and economic aid to Pakistan despite the US banning such aid to countries having nuclear weapons and such nuclear capabilities; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto by way of impressing upon the US to refrain from extending such aid to Pakistan in view of Pakistan's hostile postures?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The US Government has proposed a reduction in the quantum of US aid to Pakistan but the matter is yet to be considered by the US Congress. Such aid can only take place when President Bush provides certification under the Pressler Amendment that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear device.

Yemen's Peace Plan to avert the Gulf War

904. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Yemen had proposed a Six Point Peace Plan for averting the Gulf War;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) what was Government's reaction thereto, by way of seizing the opportunity as a member of the United Nations Security Council to avert the war or to bring about a cease-fire after the war started and to arrive at a negotiated settlement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of Yemen's six point peace plan are as given below:

(i) A resolution by the U.N. Security Council to stop all military action immediately;

(ii) Provide chance to all Arab and Islamic mediation efforts to put an end to the causes which have created differences between Iraq and Kuwait;

(iii) A resolution by the U.N. Security Council for the withdrawal of all multinational forces from the region;

(iv) Security Council to pass a resolution giving an assurance to implement all U.N. Resolutions on Arab|Israeli conflict immediately and without any delay;

(v) The Security Council should pass a resolution which will render void the Resolution No. 661;

(vi) Reach a comprehensive agreement to remove all the lethal weapons in the possession of any country in the area and lay down strict rules to ensure the adherence by this agreement after removing all forms of conflicts in the region in general and the Arab/Israeli conflict in particular.

2. The Government of India extended support to the efforts made by various countries to bring about a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis and in particular, itself took a number of initiatives to this end through direct contacts with the parties concerned, through the non-aligned movement, and at the United Nations.

Complaints received from Indian Nationals after Gulf war broke out

905. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by Government from stranded Indian nationals after the Gulf war started; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to help such Indian nationals to come back to India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The information is being ascertained.

(b) All necessary steps have been taken by Government and by Indian Missions abroad to help Indian nationals who wished to return to India, to do so, including arranging exit permits, assistance in transport through scheduled and special flights, and financial and other assistance for their transit.

Introduction of cost-plus tariff scheme by Department of Posts

906. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Posts propose to introduce a cost-plus tariff scheme for the commercial sector as part of efforts to improve and streamline the mail delivery system;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the scheme; and

(c) by when the schems is likely to be introduced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) to (c) An Expert Committee in Excellence in Postal Services had inter alia recommended that the Department of Posts should aim at balancing its revenue and expenditure in the short run and in the longer run produce a surplus to finance its own depreciation and development. An indepth study of the modalities of achieving these objectives is under way. As such it is not possible at this stage to indicate the services for which tariff could be imposed on cost plus basis and the time frame within which such proposals could be implemented.

USS FORD at Bombay Port

907. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an American Warship, USS FORD was berthed at Bombay port at